

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the instant application in view of the amendments above and the following remarks. Claims 1-26 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 14 are independent and have been amended to address the Examiner's formality rejection pursuant to 37 CFR 1.75(i).

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the determination that claims 5 and 18 recite allowable subject matter. Applicant has not rewritten claims 5 and 18 in independent form at this time because Applicant respectfully submits that the claims from which claims 5 and 18 depend are allowable for the reasons provided below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3, 6-9, 12-16, 19-22, 25 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,564,548 (filed Jun. 1, 1995) ("Dobbins"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Applicant submits that Dobbins fails to disclose "development for each of the money items under test, a transformed money item signal as a function of the value of the money item signal and at least one variable parameter that is a function of an acceptability criterion for the money item under test." The Office Action states that "step 504 of developing for each of said money items under the test via processor 35, transformed money item signals (indicated as delta 1 through delta m) which are a function of the value of said money item signal X1 and variable parameter Cntrl, and are according to the outcome of rule based expert system 35." Office Action at 3.

With respect to Figure 5, which references step 504, Dobbins states:

FIG. 5 is a flow chart showing the operation of this aspect of the invention. For an initial coin denomination identification $i=1$ (block 503) the differences $(\Delta_1, \dots, \Delta_m)$ between the measured characteristics of the coins (X_1, \dots, X_m) (block 502) and the respective center point for each vector $(Cntr_1, \dots, Cntr_m)$ (block 504) are compared against upper and lower limits (block 506). In terms of the variables used on FIG. 5, i is the coin denomination index, m is the number of measured coin parameters, (L_{1i}, \dots, L_{mi}) are the lower limits and (U_{1i}, \dots, U_{mi}) are the upper limits.

Thus, in contrast to the Examiner's suggestion, step 504 merely indicates that coin dimensions must be obtained by (1) taking the measured characteristics of the coins (which are measured in X (X_1, \dots, X_m) coordinates) and (2) subtracting from those measured characteristics the respective center points for each vector $(Cntr_1, \dots, Cntr_m)$. In other words, as shown with reference to Fig. 4, step 504 merely discloses changing the frame of reference of the coin's measured characteristics from the X and/or the X' coordinate system to the X'' coordinate system. Dobbins does not modify the measured value at all. The location of a given coin's measured signal would not move on the Fig. 4 graph at all. The only change would be the origin used.

Similarly, any variability in Dobbins due to the vector V simply reflects a change in the coin window acceptability *tolerance*, not a transformation of the measured coins signal. See Dobbins column 8, lines 39-51.

In contrast to Dobbins' mere change to the frame of reference used to depict the measured coin signal, claims 1 and 14 require "a transformed money item signal as a function of the value of the money item signal and at least one variable parameter that is a function of an acceptability criterion for the money item under test." Thus, the measured money item signal must be transformed. Considering the transformation requirement of the instant claims in the context of Dobbins Fig. 4 graph, the location of the measured signal would change as measured from any of the X, X' or X'' frames of reference. Applicant respectfully submits that Dobbins does not disclose transforming the money item signal.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits Dobbins does not anticipate claims 1-3, 6-9, 12-16, 19-22, 25 and 26 and that these claims are allowable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 4 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable for obviousness over Dobbins in view of European Patent Application Pub. No. EP 0.072.189-A2 ("Daw"). Claims 10, 11, 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable for obviousness over Dobbins in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,311,820 ("Bell"). Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable because, for the reasons stated above, none of the cited references teach or suggest "development for each of the money items under test, a transformed money item signal as a function of the value of the money item signal and at least one variable parameter that is a function of an acceptability criterion for the money item under test."

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the pending claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above and that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. If a

telephone conference would facilitate prosecution of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commission is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this response, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 15-0665, Order No. 020305-004003.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: July 14, 2008

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